Government of India is also implementing a Centrally sponsored "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) in the country from 1st April, 2004 to increase production and productivity of these crops.

Benefit of agriculture to American companies

†1208. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to extend the benefit of agriculture to American companies following an agreement between India and America; and

(b) the details of loss likely to be incurred on Indian farmers due to this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) In Indo-US knowledge Initiative on Agriculture, which is under active consideration, there is no proposal to extend benefit of agriculture to American Companies.

(b) Does not arise.

Private sector participation in Indo-US knowledge Initiative

1209. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many private sector representatives in the Board of Indo-US Knowledge Initiative on Agricultural Research and Education;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the members of the board, as on today;

(c) the purpose of above board and the details of initiatives made in the first meeting of the above board;

(d) whether the initial initiative is mainly funded for research in transgenic and bio-technology; and

(e) if so, the details of funding to the board including the source of fund?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Out of 16 Board members, 8 each are from India and US. In the Board 5 members are private sector representatives, 3 from USA and 2 from India.

(b) Details in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Purpose: To promote a new US-India Knowledge Initiative on agricultural education and research service and commercial linkages.

In its first meeting, the Board selected the following priority and key areas of focus:—

1. Human Resource and Institutional Capacity building (Cross cutting areas): Education learning resources, curriculum development and training.
2. Agri-Processing and Marketing: (i) Food Processing (ii) Use of bio-products and bio-fuels.
3. Emerging Technologies: Biotechnology
4. Natural Resource Management: Water Management

(d) Biotechnology including transgenics is one of the four key areas indicated in (c) above.

(e) Source and details of funding are being worked out.

Statement

US-India Knowledge Initiative Board Members

United States	India
Honrary Advisor	**Honrary Advisor**
Dr. Norman Borlaug	Dr. M.S. Swaminathan
Co-Chair	**Co-Chair**
Ellen Terpstera	Mangala Rai
Administrator USDA/FAS	Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR
Universities	**Universities**
• Mort Neufville Executive Vice-President National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC)	• Prem Lal Gautam Vice-Chancellor Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar (Uttaranchal)

United States	India
• Bobby Moser Vice-President and Executive Dean, College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences The Ohio State University	• C. Ramasamy Vice-Chancellor Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)
• Surendra P. Singh Professor, Agri-business Tennessee State University	• M.P. Yadav Director Indian Veterinary Research Institute Izatnagar, Uttar Pradesh
Non-Government Organization	**Government**
Marshall Bouton Executive Director Chicago Council on Foreign Relations	• Jai Shankar Joint Secretary (America) Ministry of External Affairs • S.L. Bhat Joint Secretary Department of Agriculture & Cooperation Ministry of Agriculture
Private Sector	**Private Sector**
• Michael D. Dykes Monsanto	• Anuradha Desai Venkateswara Hatcheries Ltd., Pune
• Tres Bailey Wal-mart • Shanon Herzfeld Archer Daniels, Midland Company	• S. Siva Kumar Agri-business, ITC Ltd., New Delhi